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THE CLASH OF ALTER AND EGO. In another column will be found what what seems to be a conservative review and "In Principle We are All Socialists," endorsement of Socialism by a distinguished Presbyterian theologian, who recognizes a basic truth of enlightened sociology: that "the right of the community is paramount to the right of the individual," and that "in

principle we are all Socialists." Widely different are the views given in the April number of Bibliotheca Sacra by Z. Swift Holbrook, a professed Christian and a Chicago capitalist. He discusses "Christianity and Social Problems" in opposition to the opinions of Dr. Lyman Ab bott and other clergymen who regard the New Testament as a practical as well as theoretical textbook for Christian business men as well-as all others to follow.

Mr. Holbrook says:

desire to demand of Christianity the remedy And yet they starved in a land of plenty. for unjust social conditions, and thus to unite utility with beauty, no one can predict. One thing is certain: if literature is the creation of any particular imagination, impracticable idealist; but as he interpreted through the enlightened Christian consciousness of to-day The state recognizes two kinds of corporations-one for pecuniary benefit, and the they can only cry, "Down with society! other philanthropic. Does Christianity de- They cannot wait to think what will come mand the repeal of laws making this distinction, and insist that all corporations must be philanthropic? Does it oppose monster must be destroyed, let come what the current ideas of sound principles of may come. On this theory we should of economics be rewritten at its behest that consumption, production, distribution accumulation, may revolve around a new ant only as a symptom. As a social remedy center-duty to neighbor, instead of self?

"Such a pseudo-Christ would at once usher in a flabby and insipid social concition, where every man is minding his neighess, and paying no attention to where the fruitage of a proper regard for self, such as self-respect, self-reliance, and a host of similar virtues, are positive sins; where life, liberty, property, work of society, even to the extinction of a report of a court decision authorizing the reputation, are meaningless terms, because the ego has been so lost in alter that a cartilaginous substance has taken the place of the backbone; where mental and moral virility and heroism have been supplanted the Socialistic development of political fit to it to make the picture complete is the Christ of modern birth, and we present social problems seem as child's of competition was taken to be the law of

answer to the blasphemous questions and fere with this law was both futile and hurt sneers of Rabshekeh Holbrook. They in- ful. The law of social progress was to let stantly answer themselves. But it may be things alone in order that the law of com remarked that if the church organization is petition might work out its full measure of not destined to become thoroughly pagan- good. The doctrine culminated in the ized by priests and laymen of the sordid maxim: "The best government is that Holbrook type, there is work for its honest which governs least." I think I am not adherents to take up. The task is to rescue wrong in saying that this ground is now al-Christianity from the worse than infidel most wholly given up. Observation has company it now keeps. In Christ's day the shown that in spite of ourselves govern. Editor Bloomfield Record: devils took possession of the swine, but in ment is becoming more complicated. With this day the evil one has taken possession advancing civilization, the interests which of the church, entering through the same require policy, protection or regulation, unclean medium, and the ministers, far too multiply. With increased facilities for American, Theodore Bourne, on the sub- -the American flag, the Constitution, etc. few of them, lack the moral stamina neces- food adulteration, for example, society is ject of the Referendum as the cure for the to cover their real purposes and thus win sary to purify the temples of their presence obliged to protect itself against a new form prevailing rottenness of our political fabric victories under false pretenses. and evil influence.

closer between the Bellamyites and the must be made more elaborate. pawnbrokers, oil-magnates, sugar-kings and their sycophants. The various trusts and have not made any special study of the the selfish and unscrupulous politicians. combines, controlling "production, distribution and accumulation," through the ma- The conclusion seems almost unavoidable every newspaper in the land, and its read- better than the rule of a mob (in the conchinery of business and politics have cornered about everything that passes current except the religion of Jesus Christ. That they have no earthly use for but as a means to serve their ends, and have accordingly cannot be submitted to individual care. rapidly less, while that of the deceiving and But while a remedy for all this corrup set to work defacing its "image and super- The state or the city must attend to it. treacherous professional politicians and pur- tion is at hand the people plod along in scription" and defiling its external temples The older political economy disliked inter- chasable demagogues in league with the the beaten paths of party lines marked ou best prepared are wanted-those Weddings, of worship. Their almsglving, though it ference with economic conditions in regard great monied institutions the Trusts and for them by their bosses, regardless of the containing nothing but healthy in runs up into the millions, is but the one to the employment of women and children other organized associations of capitalists remedy placed before them in the form of virtue of the freebooter, "stained with a

its corner stone. Who is ready to help? fans; that for certain parts of the process upon by their servants or employes.

THE SOCIAL PROBLEM.

Says Prof. Henry P. Smith. From The New York Evangelist.

Occasionally we hear a minister class Socialism, communism, nihilism and atheism together in one sweeping denunciation. But the most of us have got further along We see that the only thing which binds Socialism, communism and nihilism (or anarchism) together is the social pang from which they spring. And this social pang has a true cause in the facts of social life. Twice during the past winter deaths by starvation have come under my notice as reported in the newspaper. Both cases were persons in respectable life, of good education and of good moral character. Both were competent and willing to earn "What the outcome will be of this intense their living, if only opportunity offered.

Here is a heart-breaking fact, and it is only one in a large class of facts. When we apprehend it we naturally lay the blame the Merchant, we must know him, not as on society—that is, on the social organism as it now exists. And we naturally seek for a remedy in the reconstruction of ociety. Some men are so filled with pity and rage in contemplating these facts that after their blow has been delivered. Does it deny the right to acquire, burn down a defective house before inquir ing whether we can find shelter from the weather. That the theory is a sort of insanity is evident. Its existence is importit cannot be taken seriously. It can be likened only to the proposition to kill the

patient in order to overcome his disease. But Socialism has a remedy to offer a feast worth examining. It goes to the other extreme, and instead of proposing to destroy society, it proposes to extend the individual enterprise. Perhaps there is no more striking example of a science reversing its own conclusions than is offered by This is the economy. Those of us who studied the science of wealth 25 years ago remember that the science looked at individualism as have some problems to solve that make the the only normal state of society. The law nature. It was taken for granted that any There is no occasion for any one to make attempt on the part of government to inter-

subject recognize the drift of the times. That article should be republished in the one man power is, after all, rather that the sphere of government interference ers should ponder over the subject therein crete) of such scamps as now manage is likely to be greatly extended, and that contained with profound interest and most through their malign methods to steal the some social evils are likely thereby to be careful thought, for the reason that the po- power of the people and use it for their mitigated. The great subject of sanitation litical power of the people is becoming own base purposes. New York, not only willing but eager to tion. In practice all governments find it concerning the future of our so-called "Re- when such independent public journals proclaimed Gospel of Greed, that makes in the interests of public morals and of the government. Abbotts and Smiths in the unrequited ious to health. The committee therefore clashing methods by which our country is ent reprehensible method of government. labor of clearing away the rubbish and uncovering the old foundation upon which to size of the rooms in which a given number practical application of the principle that build the modern temple of self-govern of workmen may be employed; that they the people should be the fountain whence

Yet the common conscience of to-day ap proves this interference.

The conclusion is that we cannot talk any longer of the sacredness of private property. This is only one of the phrases behind which men have sought to defend their own interests. As a matter of fact absolute property rights are as non-existent as is the absolute rights of kings. While we do not deprive a man of his property without due process of law, we do con stantly interfere with his right. If he uses his land so as to annoy his neighbors we enjoin him from that use. If a corporation organized for a useful end needs his land we take it away from him and compel nim to accept a price fixed by another. We already recognize the right of the community as paramount to the right of the individual. In principle we are all Socialists. The only question between us is the extent to which the principle can be

But it is worth noticing here that the right of private property constantly extended itself over a wide territory. The earliest possession to which a man had an individual title was the weapon or tool which he himself had made. In the next stage of development he had a share in the lands of the tribe. Then he became the owner of land in fee. But in the civilization of our day property is held in forms which would have been incomprehensible to our forefathers. The bulk of what we own is now in credits, franchises, patent rights, royalties, copyrights. Along with he tendency to extend the sphere of state enterprise, we see a tendency to extend the domain of private property. There seems to be no reason why the two should not go on side by side.

We started this inquiry in order to find remedy for social ills. The extension of state activity is proposed as one remedy. Whether we like it or not, it is likely to be extensively tried. As I write, there comes city of New York to construct a rapid transit system. Already municipal corporations own and manage water works, gas works, electric-light plants. The tendency of the times is toward an increase of such enterprises. Will this cure the ills of society? To a certain extent, it will, bu to a certain extent only. More adequate state control will certainly better the evils arising from bad sanitary conditions. poor man is likely to have a cheaper supply by the state than when he is at the mercy of a private corporation. So much there is welcome rather than dread its spread.

CORRUPT OFFICIALISM Can Only Be Remedied by Adopting the Referendum.

of robbery. As means of travel increase, has appeared at a timely period of our na-Thus the clash of "alter and ego" comes precautions against the spread of disease tional existence—which has been strained ing legislative control for personal profit to a fearful tension by the methods em- as practiced by the "gangs" have become

in his own way could scarcely be imagined. respective parties, regardless of the people's casions.

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Indeed these villainous methods of secur-I suppose that most thinking men who ployed in the late presidential canvass by so flagrant and transparent that very many good citizens are beginning to believe that

in factories. But the public conscience -are growing in such force and potential the Referendum. But the people must be Petty's. Your friends will has settled the question in favor of govern- might as to seriously alarm the honest stu- instructed and educated up to the excel- you the same-if you ask them. Yet there are ministers in Chicago and in ment regulation and government inspec- dents of political and social economics lency of that system of government, and pronounce the benediction upon this boldly necessary to interfere with the liquor traffic publican" and "Democratic" systems of THE BLOOMFIELD RECORD (alas too few) will lend their potential influence to aid in Self the Supreme Being of the business public health. Only recently a committee The plan of the Referendum is based the furtherence of such an interesting, nay, world. But there are others whose "enlight- of the British parliament reported on the upon the theory that the people should be vital subject, we may reasonably hope that ened Christian consciousness" has not been condition of the dangerous trades. It may the arbiters of whatever relates to their the idea of a government by and for the debauched and does not permit them to be news to others, as it was to me, that the personal welfare and to the proper gov- people will be made by the people them-"crook the pregnant hinges of the knee" to manufacture of waterproof cloth is one of ernment and substantial safety of their selves and become a tangible fact, in order Baal. A goodly number of the clergy are these dangerous trades. It is unfortunate- country; and it also represents the funda- that we may banish from our minds the found still faithful to the "ideal Christ," ly true that in this work the work-man mental principles of true Republicanism thought that perhaps a Constitutional ready to strike hands with the unorthodox is almost obliged to breathe fumes deleter. and real Democracy, while the devious and Monarchy would be preferable to our pres

WILLIAM COLFAX GLASGOW has owned and managed he ment, with the Golden Rule inscribed upon compel employers to provide ventilating should flow the measures to be legislated street car lines and other vast public plants GROCERIES for years. The revenues are so great that self-feeding machines be made obligatory; In fact, every ordinarily intelligent man the city pays no taxes. The rates are but Four months gone since the election and and that the employment of persons under knows that we are now governed by men a fraction of those charged in America. not yet a streak of "dawning prosperity." 16 years of age be forbidden. A more who manipulate the elections, national, The system is a perfect success. How long If Mr. Studer can hasten it by booming radical interference with the supposed state and municipal, to suit their own per- a time will it take us progressive Americans a gold-bond issue, he will be a benefactor right of every man to conduct his business sonal interests, and for the glory of their to get this idea into our heads?-New Oct

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